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Brian Nickel joins Vancouver Opera's Development team

Experienced fundraiser, artistic and business consultant and baritone joins company as Director of Development

Vancouver, BC ~ Vancouver Opera is pleased to announce the appointment of **Brian Nickel** to its leadership team. Mr. Nickel joined the organization last week as Director of Development and brings a wealth of experience as a fundraiser, artistic and business consultant and as an operatic performer.

Mr. Nickel holds degrees in Economics and Business Administration and has worked in Italy in business consulting, artistic production and fundraising for classical music organizations. Most recently, he worked in post-secondary fundraising at the University of Alberta and the University of Saskatchewan.

"I am delighted to welcome Brian to the team during this very exciting time," said James Wright, General Director of Vancouver Opera. "He'll be a great asset during the transition to our first festival season and we are very happy to have him on board."

Mr. Nickel grew up playing several musical instruments and was a successful performer and competitor in music festivals in Saskatchewan, his home province, and across the country. He studied music at the Banff Centre, The University of Toronto and the Juilliard School in New York. His career as an operatic performer took him to theatres and concert halls across Canada (including Vancouver), the United States and, finally, to Europe where he was based for many years.

"I'm thrilled to bring my experience as both an artist and a fundraiser to Vancouver Opera," said Mr. Nickel. "I'm eager to get to work to mobilize community support around the new Vancouver Opera Festival and to help carry this very important cultural organization into the future."

VO was founded in 1958 by a group of visionary community leaders who believed in the value of the performing arts to the life of a great city, and who recognized the power of opera to connect people to the universal human drama.

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